

TITLE
SOLID IMAGING APPARATUS AND
METHOD WITH COATING STATION

ABSTRACT

5 A solid imaging apparatus and method produces an integral three-
dimensional object from a multiplicity of cross sectional portions of the object
by selectively exposing successive layers of a liquid photoformable
composition to actinic radiation. The apparatus includes a vessel for
containing the composition so as to present a free surface, and a movable
10 platform disposed within the vessel below the free surface. Part of the
composition is transferred above the free surface by lowering and raising a
dispenser at predetermined positions located away from the platform. A
doctor blade contacts the composition transferred above the free surface, and
then moves over the platform to form a substantially uniform layer of the
15 composition.

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